

Three
Parameters
Plus, Inc.
Employee of
the Year Steve
Reidsma
completes yet
another
jurisdictional
field plot near
the "G" Valley.

This was Steve's fourth field season on the project.

Pebble Project Wetlands Study 2007 Agency Update

Major Study Components

Delineation

Based on Criteria and Indicators Found in the 1987 Corps Wetland Delineation Manual & 2006 Interim, and very soon – the 2007 Regional Supplement for the Alaska Region.

Classify Wetlands and Assess Their Functions

Magee Rapid Procedure for Assessing Wetland Functional Capacity (HGM Based)

Consider Wetland Values

Incorporate Subsistence, Recreation, Cultural Resource, and Other Values into the Functional Assessment Evaluation

Identify & Evaluate Potential Compensatory Mitigation Projects

Prepare Compensatory Mitigation Plan

Per June 10, 2004 Final Alaska District Compensatory Mitigation Guidelines (or subsequent guidance)





Status Report by Study Component



Field Data Collection

Data QC/ Validation

Line

Drawing

Polygon Coding

Field

Review

Delineation

Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S.



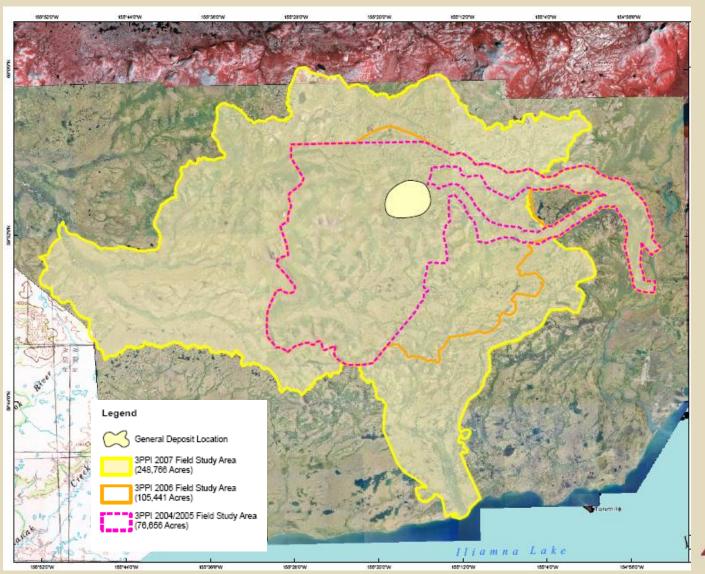
Both the 1987 and 2006 Delineation Methods Were Again Applied Concurrently at Pebble During the 2007 Field Season



We're still loosing a lot of hair and sleep trying to reconcile the two methods and get all the data needed. If that wasn't enough of a challenge...

Greg Everetts, Ottertail Environmental, working in the Wiggly Lake Area



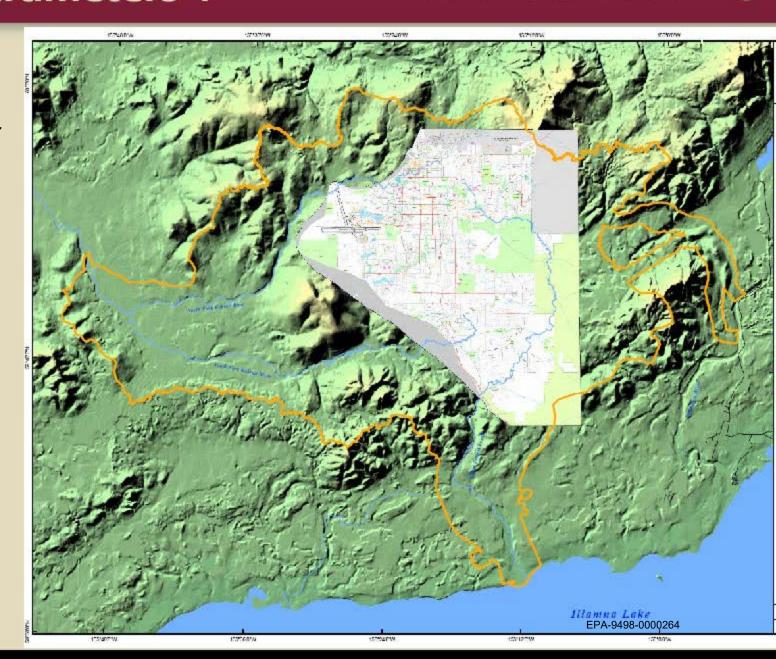


In early 2007, the Wetlands Study Area doubled in size over that of our 2006 Study Area -- more than four times the size of our original 2004 Study Area (a mere 66,000 acres...).



Natural Resource Consulting

To put this in perspective for you – here's the Anchorage Bowl superimposed over our 2007 Wetlands Study Area Boundary.



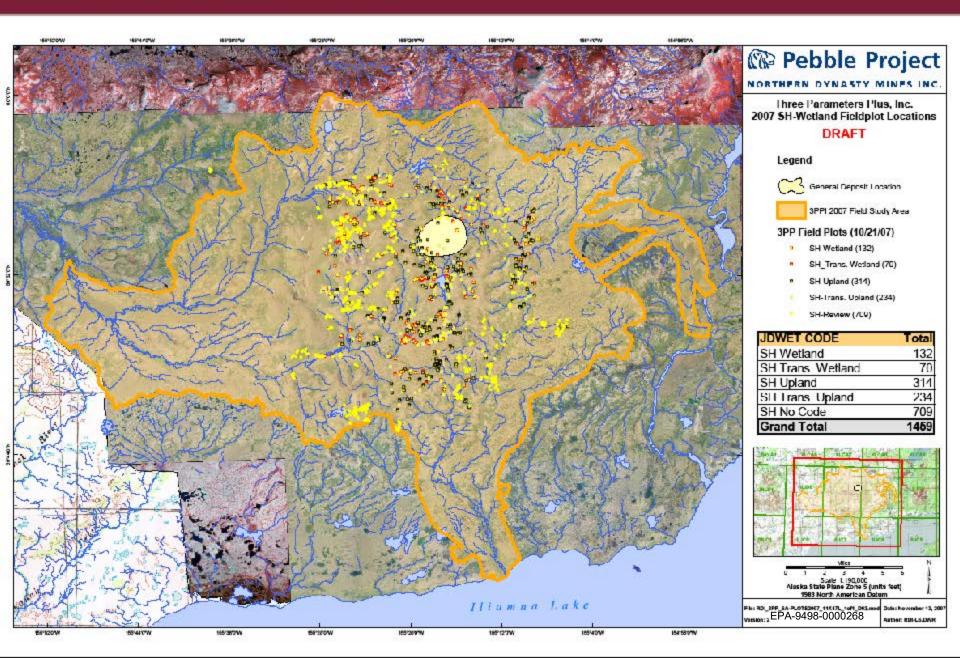
So, it was time to call for reinforcements





Shrubs, Shrubs, Always More Shrubs!



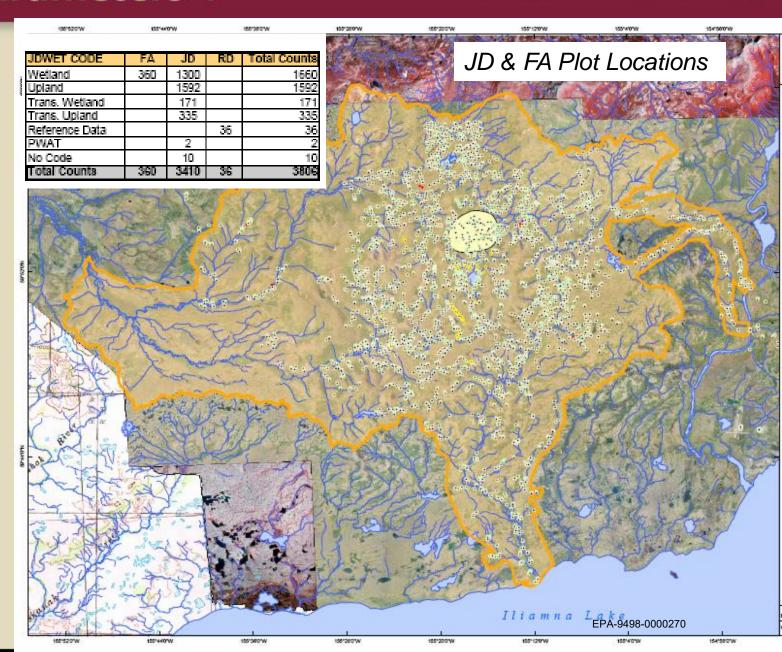


Keep Digging!



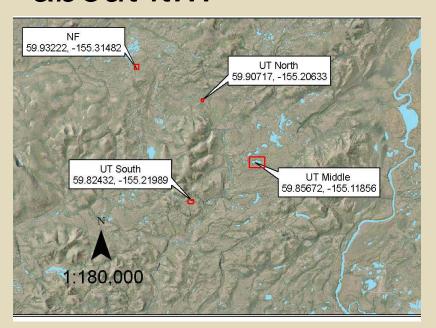
In addition to the 1,459 rapid shrub height assessments, mine site crews have also completed 3,806 full jurisdictional determinations or stand alone functional assessments.

This brings the number of holes dug and photographed to over 5,000.





Or Somebody talking about it...

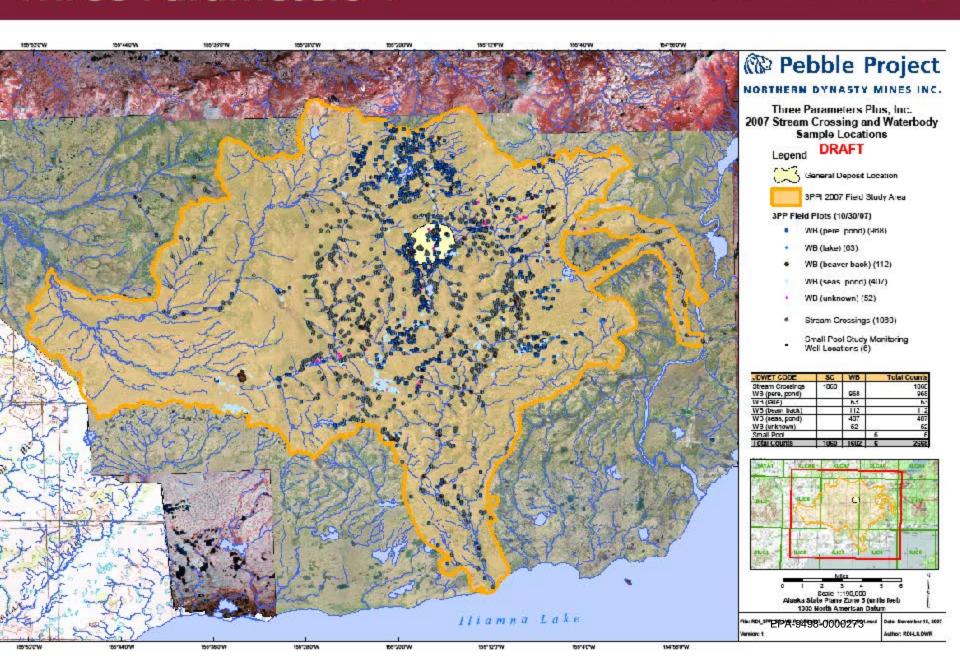




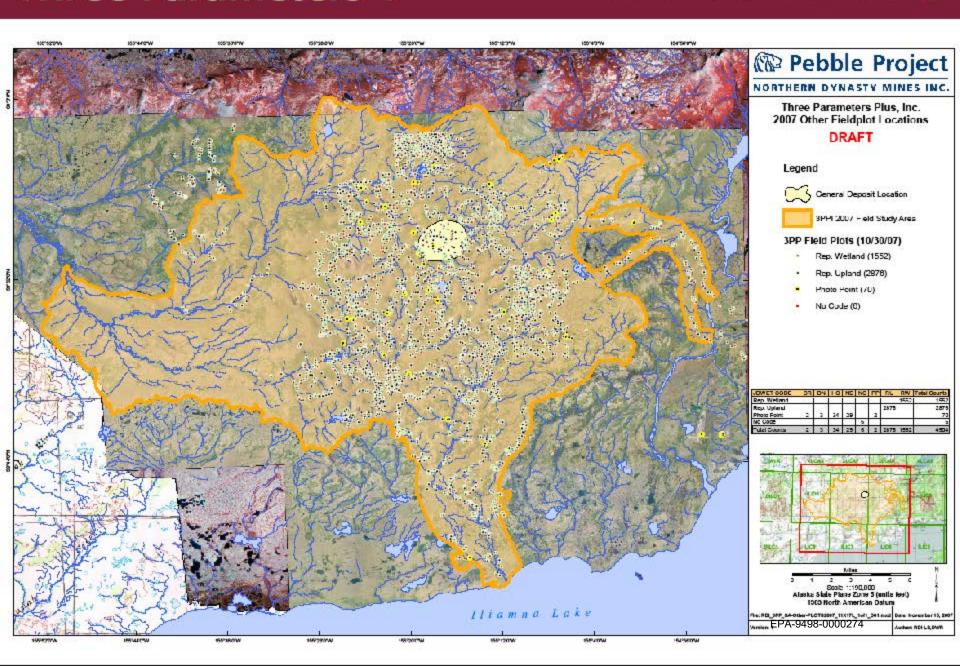
Dr. Mark Rains
explains the focus of
the Small Pools
Study to a regional
citizen's advisory
group on a tour last
August while Karyn
Noyes looks on...

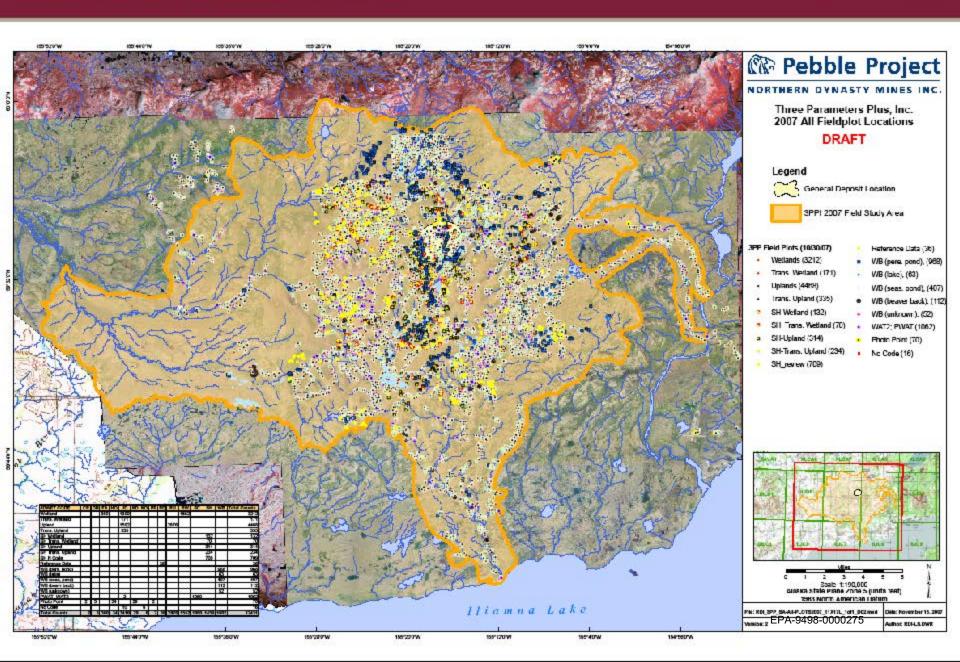
Our hypothesis is that pool electrical conductivity is controlled by water-rock interaction. If pool electrical conductivity is controlled by evaporation, then all conservative dissolved constituents (e.g., Na, K, Mg, Ca, Si, and Cl) should concentrate proportionally. If pool electrical conductivity is controlled by water-rock interaction, then conservative dissolved constituents commonly found in regional sediments (e.g., Na, K, Mg, Ca, and Si but not Cl) should concentrate preferentially. In order to evaluate this hypothesis, we will sample ~90 pools in each of the three basins and collect and analyze water samples according to the objectives listed above.

Natural Resource Consulting



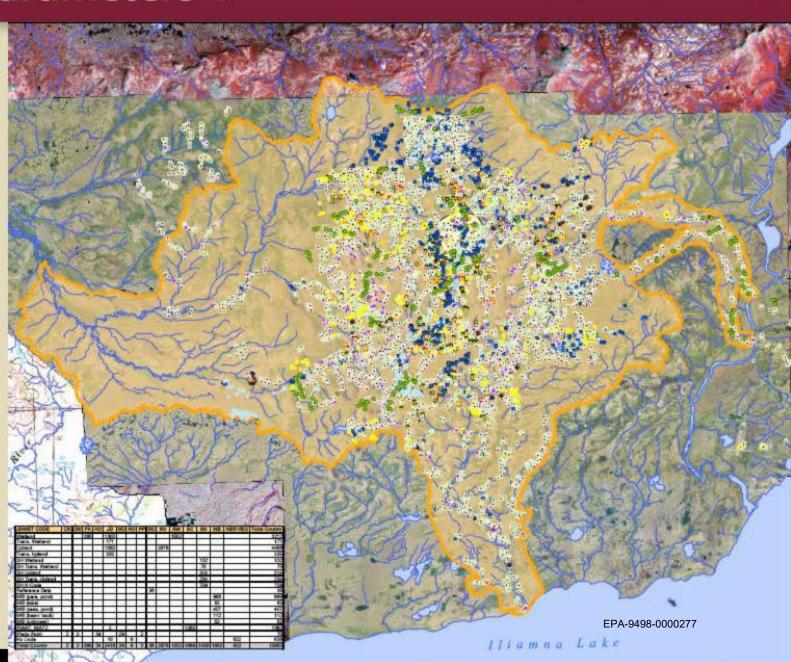
Natural Resource Consulting



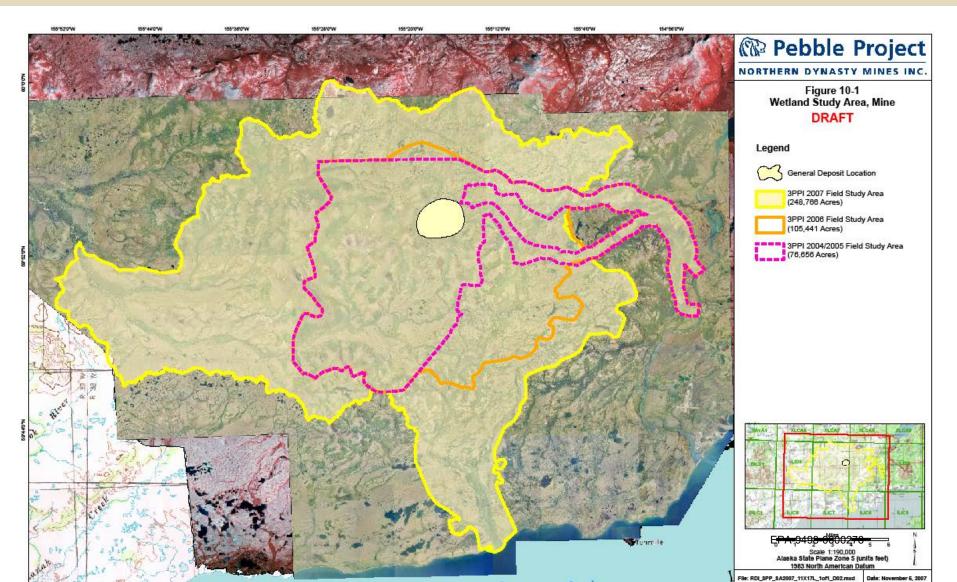




This winter, our mappers will also have access to ABR's habitat and vegetation data (shown in green) which increases the site specific observations by another 622 vegetation plots.



Plot Density By Study Area Boundary





Field Data Collection

Data Validation

Line Drawing

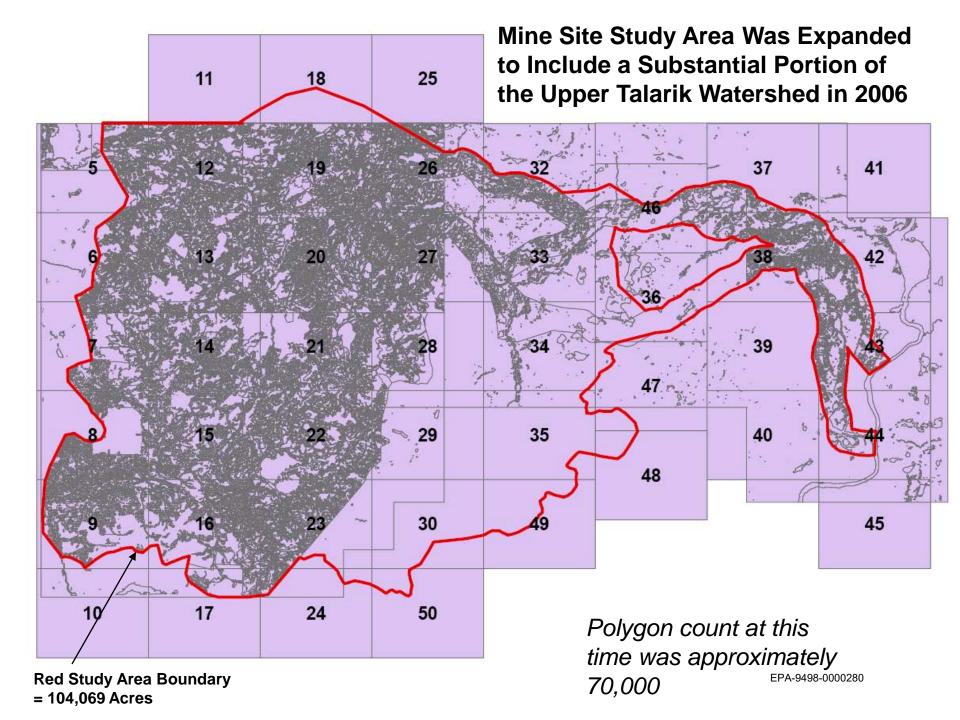
Polygon Coding

Field Review

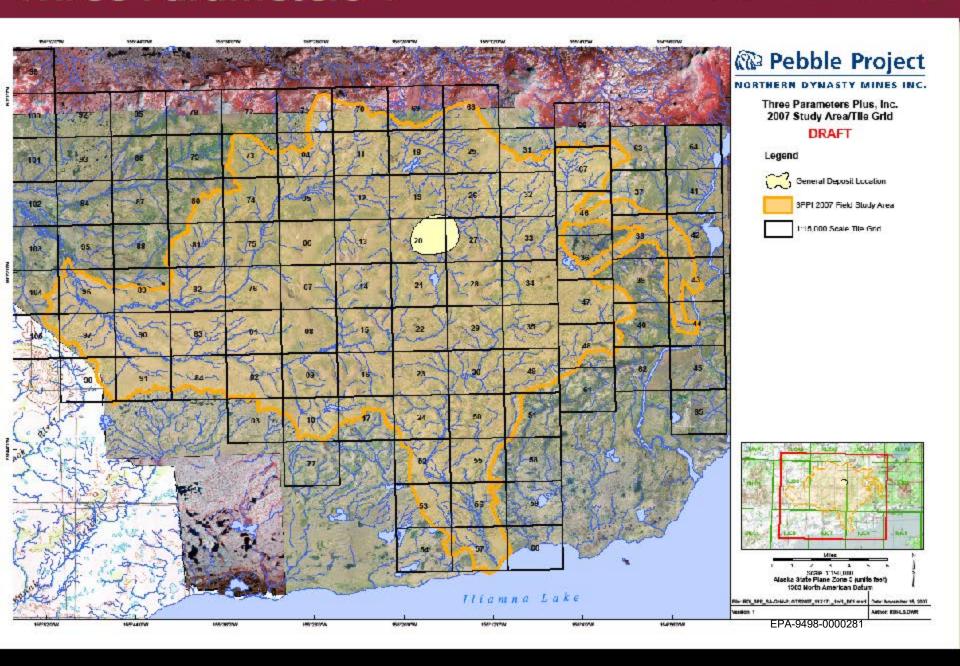
Delineation

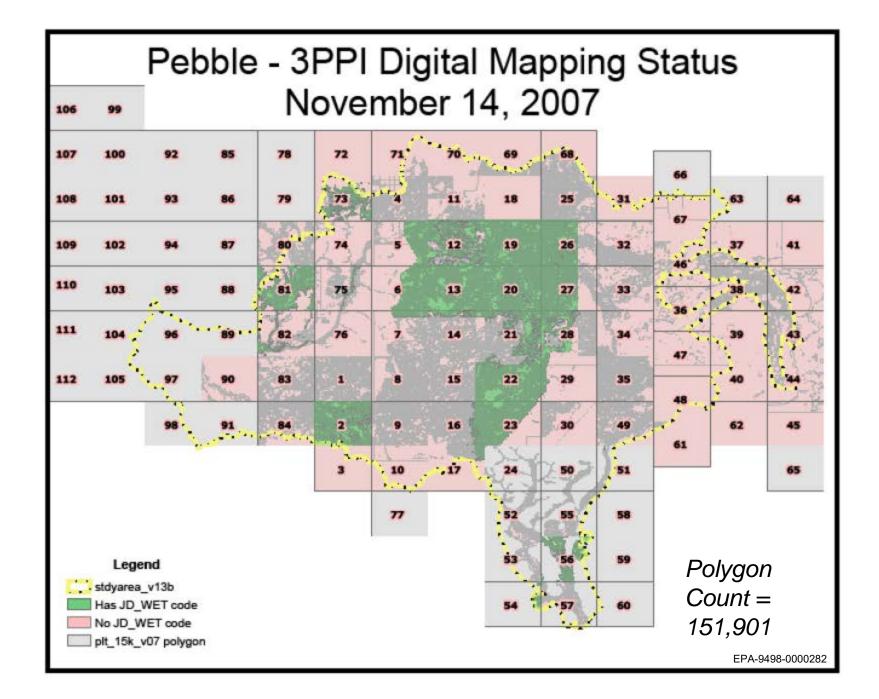
Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S.





Natural Resource Consulting

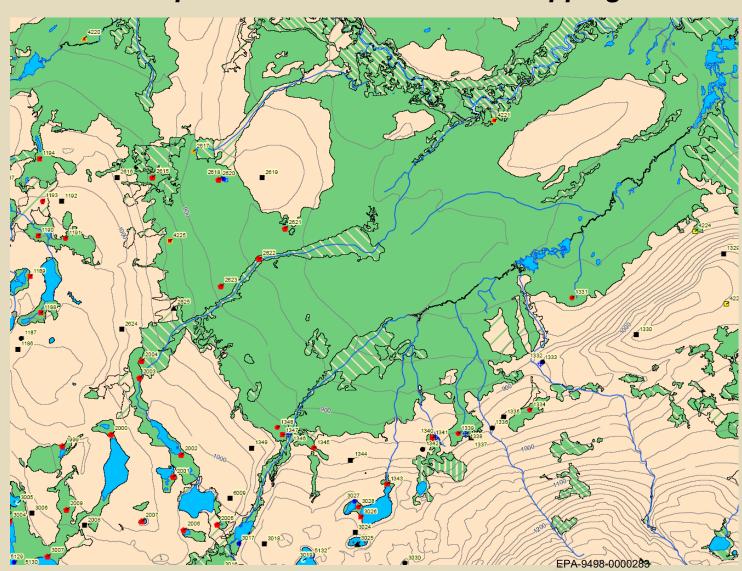




Sample Jurisdictional Wetland Mapping

The end result is mapping that will look this detailed, with a comparable sample point density (higher in some areas.

Known inlets and outlets will be clearly shown by arcs. The drainage type will ultimately be symbolized by different line patterns to differentiate perennial from intermittent streams.



But Lots of Laughter & Just Plain Silly Behavior Make Most of Our



Major Study Components



Based on Criteria and Indicators Found in the 1987 Corps Wetland Delineation Manual & 2006 Interim Regional Supplement for the Alaska Region.

Classify Wetlands and Assess Their Functions

Small Pools Study
Magee Rapid Procedure for Assessing Wetland Functional Capacity (HGM Based)

Consider Wetland Values

Incorporate Subsistence, Recreation, Cultural Resource, and Other "Values" into the Functional Assessment Evaluation

Identify & Evaluate Potential Compensatory Mitigation Projects

Prepare Compensatory Mitigation Plan

Per June 10, 2004 Final Alaska District Compensatory Mitigation Guidelines





Classify Wetlands and Assess Their Functions

Determine HGM Classification

Collect Key Data (Inlets/Outlets, pH)

Run Models Using Field & Photo Interpreted Data

Multiply Scores of Potentially Impacted Wetlands x Acres Affected

Determine Debits by Function



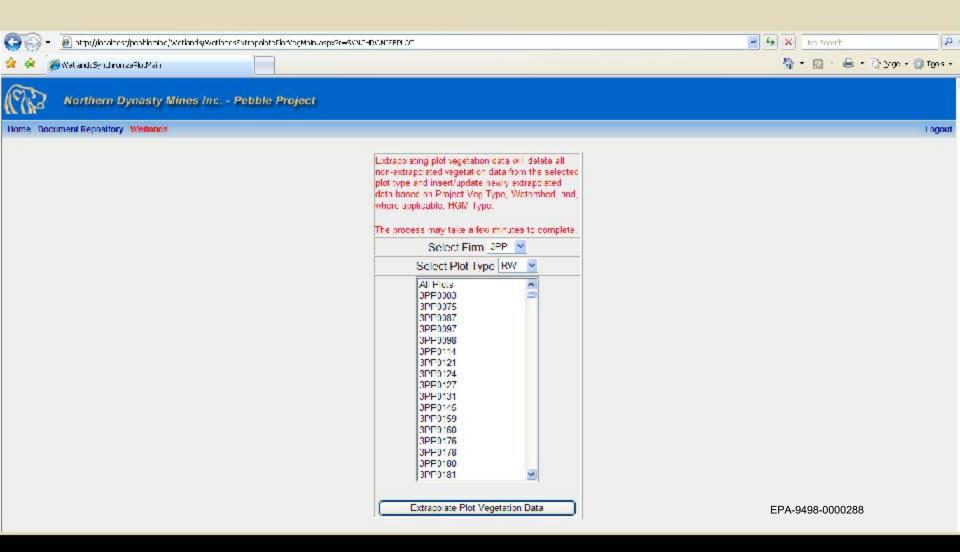
Magee Method Variables

- Wetland Size
- Ratio of Wetland Area to Watershed Area
- Juxtaposition
- Land Use/Intensity
- Soil Type
- Underlying Surficial Deposit
- Micro-Relief
- Water Regime
- Surface Water Fluctuation
- Overbank Flooding Frequency
- Sedimentation Evidence
- Basin Topography

- Inlets/Outlet Types
- Outlet Restrictions
- Water pH
- Piezometer Data (where available)
- Seeps & Springs
- Vegetation Types
- Vegetation Density/Dominance
- Interspersion
- Species Diversity
- Animal Food Plants
- Islands
- Woody Debris

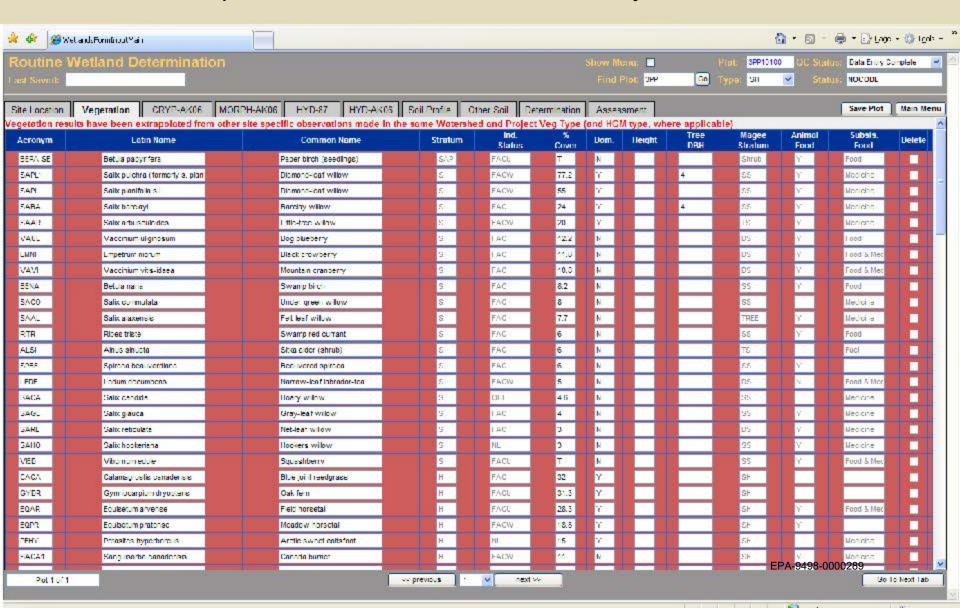


New Database Process to Extrapolate Plant Community Type Summary Data to Plots with the Same Vegetation Type, HGM Class, and in the Same Watershed.



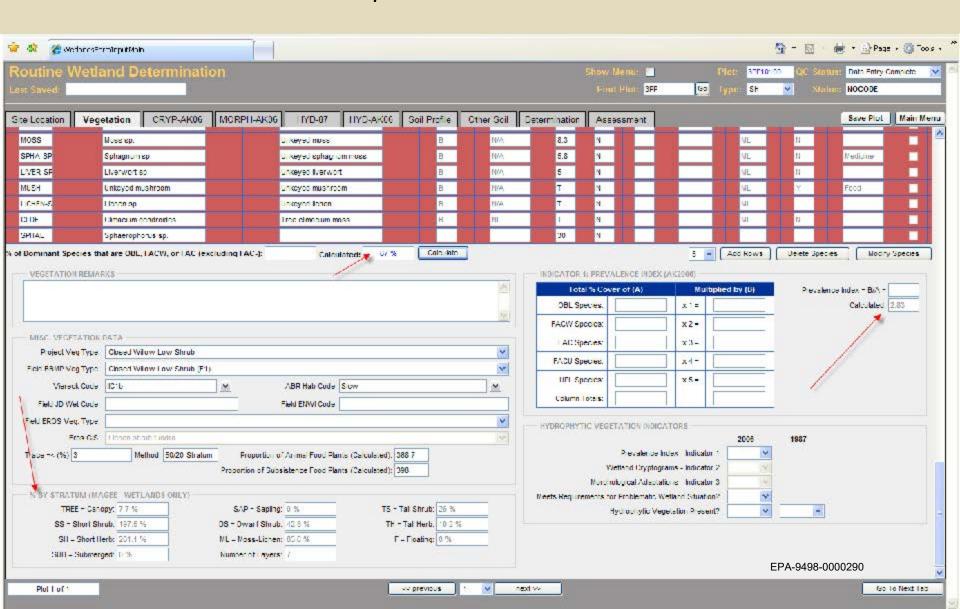
Natural Resource Consulting

When Extrapolated Data Are Used it Will Be Clearly Evident



Natural Resource Consulting

Results can then contribute to the plot's final JD status and the functional assessment.







Consider Wetland Values

Incorporate Subsistence Use, Recreational Use, Cultural Resources, and Other Values into the Functional Assessment Process





Currently RDI is in the process of implementing a new data entry page in the wetlands application of the database that mimics the Alaska Natural Heritage Program Alaska Rare Species Site Survey Report.

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Site Location Vegetation CRYP-AK06 MORPH-AK06 HYD-87 HYD-AK06 Soil Profile Other Soil Determina	tion
Completely Surveyed? Yes ▼ if No, about: % of potential habitat surveyed. Species occupied % of area/length	
The about 100 potential nastat surveyed. Species decapied 100 in a carenger	
New Location Record? Yes Subsequent Visit? Yes Compared to last visit: More	
# individuals/stems: census methods:	
# colonies/genets: if different, explain:	
Does this population occur naturally at this site Yes Is this population re-introduced: Yes Phenologic Stages: % dormant % vegetative % budding %flowering %fruiting %seeding	
Age Structure (all): % senescent % mature % juvenile % first-year % newborn/seedling	
Site Functions/Uses (animals)	
Interactions (disease, predation, competition, parasitism, symbiosis, pollination, hybridization, dispersal, etc.):	
Habitat Description (plant community, landform, dominant species, associates, other rare species, moisture, substrate/soils, aspect/slope, etc.):	
Current Site Use / Visible Disturbances and Impacts / Possible Threats:	
Overall Occurrence Quality: Excellent	
Comments on Quality:	
Other Comments:	
Identification of Taxon (Fill in all applicable fields): ID is about % certain. Photographs (check all that apply)	
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Compared w/photo/drawing in:	
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Mitigate =

Avoid

Minimize

Compensate

Identify Potential Compensatory Mitigation Opportunities





Mitigate =

Avoid

Minimize

Compensate ←

Prepare Compensatory Mitigation Plan

Per June 10, 2004 Final Alaska District Compensatory Mitigation Guidelines & Pending Rule Changes Published in the Federal Register this Summer



Major Study Components



Delineation



Classify Wetlands & Assess Their Functions



Consider Wetland Values



Identify & Evaluate Potential Compensatory Mitigation Projects



Prepare Compensatory Mitigation Plan





Mapping

Data Entry & QC

Lots More Field Work

Continued Well Monitoring for the Small Pools Study

Continue Review of Abandoned Mine Files

HDR Will Prepare EBD Access Corridor Sections

3PPI will <u>Begin</u> Drafting EBD Sections for Mine Site

2008 Work Plan

(or as I like to say – let the madness continue...)

